

Want To Be Successful?

While too much ambition brought down Shakespeare's Macbeth, lacking enough of it can be almost as damaging. Success calls for a healthy degree of ambition, a powerful fuel that can propel you to a successful future.

Ambition and success are often tied together. Successful individuals know that ambition leads to making important things happen for them. Take the following ambition test to see how ambitious you are.

Test Your Ambition

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| 1. Do you sometimes feel you're not making enough progress at school, on the job or in life? | Yes | No |
| 2. Are you willing to work some extra weeknights and weekends to get ahead? | Yes | No |
| 3. When you achieve one of your goals, do you start moving toward the next one on your list? | Yes | No |
| 4. Do you make a conscious effort to learn from your failures and mistakes? | Yes | No |
| 5. If you had the opportunity to "hitch your wagon" to a rising star (some person on the way up or some person willing to help you, for example), would you do it? | Yes | No |
| 6. Do you often read or study subjects of interest to you, even when it doesn't count toward a grade? | Yes | No |
| 7. Do you think a person can become more ambitious by an act of the will and then back it up with action? | Yes | No |
| 8. Are you presently using all or most of your abilities and resources to move ahead? | Yes | No |
| 9. Would you be willing to change direction, possibly giving up feelings of comfort or security, to achieve goals that will help you get ahead? | Yes | No |
| 10. Do you think that people will more likely succeed if they enjoy the work they do? | Yes | No |
| 11. Have any past failures in your life made you more determined to achieve success? | Yes | No |
| 12. Do you find the idea or goal of shooting for the top both exciting and challenging? | Yes | No |
| 13. If it meant career advancement, would you be willing to move to another city or country? | Yes | No |
| 14. Does the idea of working for yourself interest or enthuse you? | | |
| 15. Have you looked for new ways to help a teacher, coach or advisor at school or a boss at work? | Yes | No |

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| 16. Do you now have and maintain a list of things you intend to accomplish in the future? | Yes | No |
| 17. Do you often create, consider and experiment with new plans to help you reach your objectives? | Yes | No |
| 18. Have you set one or more deadlines for reaching your major goals? | Yes | No |
| 19. Do you genuinely value time and occasionally feel guilty when you feel you wasted it? | Yes | No |
| 20. Do you carry written slogans or positive statements to keep yourself motivated with thoughts of success? | Yes | No |

Score 5 points for every Yes
and 0 for every No.

Write your total score here: _____

Check your results.

90-100 *Great!* Your ambition may propel you to great levels of success in your career.

80-89 *Good.* While high enough to take you a good distance up the success ladder there's room to grow your ambition to a higher level.

70-79 *Fair.* It's time to focus on attaining your goals. Meet people and take classes that can help you, and decrease distractions.

60-69 *Time to take charge.* Strive to increase your ambition by setting realistic future goals and developing some objectives. Family members, teachers and counselors can help.

Under 60 *Get started now!* Lack of direction may be holding you back. To become more ambitious, make an immediate commitment to identify your interests and abilities, match them with related career possibilities and take classes that will help you meet future goals.

Now that you have taken the ambition test, remember that ambition is more than talking about what you want to do. It is knowing where you want to go, how to get there and doing what it takes to reach that goal. The key is to combine ambition with action.